

City of L.A. Action on COVID-19 Background and Talking Points

Summary of Mayor's Actions

At 8:00 PM tonight, Mayor Garcetti announced that he will use executive action to strengthen the City's response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), issuing temporary restrictions on large public gatherings at restaurants, bars, nightclubs and other establishments in the City of Los Angeles.

Restrictions will be effective in the City of Los Angeles beginning at 11:59 PM on March 15, 2020 and remain in place through 12:00 PM on March 31, 2020. They are subject to extension.

The following establishments within the City of Los Angeles will be temporarily closed to the public:

- Bars and nightclubs that do not serve food;
- Movie theaters and entertainment venues;
- Bowling alleys and arcades;
- Gyms and fitness centers.

The following restrictions will also apply:

- All restaurants will be prohibited from serving food to dine-in customers, but may continue to prepare and offer food via delivery service or take-out;

The following establishments will continue to operate:

- Grocery stores will continue to operate and there is no shortage of food or interruption in our food supply;
- Cafeterias within hospitals, nursing homes, and similar facilities will continue operations.
- Houses of worship are urged to limit large gatherings on their premises and to explore and implement ways to practice their respective faiths while observing social distancing practices.

The Mayor's order builds on his March 12, 2020 [directive](#), which strengthened the local response to the outbreak through measures that included limits on public gatherings in City facilities, and follows a declaration of local emergency on March 4, 2020.

Summary of Governor's Actions

At 2:00 PM today, Governor Newsom held a press conference where he provided the following guidance:

- Seniors over the age of 65 should try to self-isolate
- All bars should be closed since they are considered non-essential.
- Restaurants should reduce their occupancy by 50% and require social distancing for diners.
- Homeless individuals should be moved inside during the crisis, possibly into vacant motel rooms through master lease agreements
- Visits to assisted living facilities and hospitals are prohibited with the exception of end-of-life visits.

Governor Newsom shared that additional plans with greater detail will be released on Tuesday, March 17. Additionally, he emphasized that the guidelines provided above are not mandatory given the track record for voluntary compliance on previous recommendations issued by his office.

Last week, the Governor announced new guidelines to restrict gatherings of 250 people or more; recommend organizers of smaller events urge at least six feet of social distancing; and protect vulnerable populations.

Topline Messages

The City's Response

- The City is taking steps to move forward proactively and strategically.
- This is about preparation and prevention, not panic.
- Our goal is to flatten the curve on the spread of this virus and mitigate its impacts while we work with the County, and state and federal partners, to get more robust testing and treatment up and running.

Advice on Prevention

- There are things that each of us can do to make a major difference, slow the spread of COVID-19, and save lives:
 - Wash your hands often;
 - Resist touching your eyes, nose, and mouth;
 - Wipe down surfaces;
 - If you feel sick, stay home;
 - And those who are 65 and over, have underlying health conditions, or are pregnant should avoid any non-essential travel or large gatherings.

Social Distancing

- Right now, gathering in big groups puts lives at risk. Interacting with fewer people for a few weeks will save lives, and will help keep our hospitals and healthcare workers from being inundated with cases.
- Old or young, with symptoms or without them — social distancing is your responsibility.
- You may be healthy, but it's not just about protecting yourself. Others are vulnerable — protect them.

City Services and General Guidance

- The City will continue to deliver the services Angelenos depend on. Sanitation, street cleaning, and other basic services all remain scheduled and operational.
- Our County health experts encourage people with tele-health options to take advantage of them.
- Be sure to sign up for NotifyLA for up-to-date information and guidance.

Food and Water

- There is plenty of food. Stores are restocking their shelves daily. Supply chains have not been interrupted and there is no need to “panic buy” and put unnecessary pressure on supermarkets.
- Our neighbors also have essential needs, and a rush in demand can cause unanticipated buying frenzies and unnecessary anxiety.
- You do not have to hoard water. If you live in the City of Los Angeles, LADWP water is safe, readily available, and even cleaner than what you can buy in a bottle. DWP will defer all water and power shut-offs for at least the next two weeks.

Homeless Population

- Throughout this crisis, the City is continuing to address homelessness.
- We are building upon our work already underway to bring folks indoors:
 - We've set up 250 hygiene stations across the city—delivering handwashing stations and hand sanitizer to our unsheltered population;
 - We've trained outreach workers to monitor encampments for individuals with COVID-19;
 - We continue to deploy mobile hygiene trailers.

Supporting LAUSD Families

- Beginning March 16th, LAUSD schools will be closed for at least two weeks.
- School closures put a strain on families and create challenges for teachers and students. Each of us can play an important role in supporting them:
 - Employers should do everything they can to provide workers the job security and flexibility they need to protect the well-being of their kids.
 - We know that friends and neighbors will step up to support each other however they can.
- The City is working closely with the School District and our union partners to make sure our kids are healthy, safe, and fed during this closure.
- On Wednesday, LAUSD will open 60 centers on LAUSD campuses; all will feature food for students while 40 locations will have student activities, counseling and supervision. These centers will be staffed by teachers, nurses and police; and they will be open weekdays from 6am - 6pm starting Wednesday. Please check <https://achieve.lausd.net/> for updates, including locations of the centers.

Mitigating Economic Impact

- The City will do everything in its power to soften the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on local businesses and residents.
- We are in the process of creating a bridge loan program for small businesses that will be able to assist up to 400 applicants impacted by the crisis
- The City has set up a fund to accept donations that will be immediately deployed to pay for rental assistance, meals, supplies and other necessities. Learn more at <https://mayorsfundla.org/covid19/>
- In today's Executive Order, the Mayor mandated a moratorium on evictions due to non-payment of rent due to the coronavirus epidemic
- DWP and the Gas Company have announced they will not turn off service for nonpayment of bills.
- The City and County are working to expand Meals on Wheels delivery to those most vulnerable